

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE SUMMER SCHOOL OF SPANISH
SESSION OF 1964

Report of the Director

Enrollment. The transformation of the Spanish School of Middlebury College Summer School into a full graduate school was completed this summer with the elimination of the last courses on the intermediary undergraduate level - those in conversation.

This transformation, which has produced a rise in the level of academic performance, has been effected with no diminution in the number of new applicants. The total registration of 295 students was the largest in the last few years; and according to Dean Guarnaccia's report of last spring, several hundred applicants had to be refused admission.

Accompanying this transformation was a more serious and disciplined attitude toward academic studies. A contributing factor may have been the high number of nuns (23), brothers (12), Army and Navy officers (10) who were registered as students in our School. This attitude was reflected in a falling off of interest in our outings. The second picnic to Lake Dunmore had to be cancelled because of the insufficient number of persons who signed up for it.

Screening of applicants. The high number of rejected applications raises the question of how many good students have been refused admission and how many poor ones were admitted. According to Dean Guarnaccia, at the end of January or early in February, the admission quota had already been met and further applications were automatically refused. Until now the basis for admission has been chronological rather than qualitative. In my opinion, we should keep the application period open until the middle or the end of February which would allow us to screen the applicants on their merits. I further suggest that we establish some criteria as a basis for selection.

Students living in the village. An important number of students live in the village - thirty-one this summer. Those students are classified in two categories: married and single. Those in the first category, often accompanied by their wives and children, naturally cannot be accommodated in the dormitories, and for this reason our policy should be flexible concerning them. Single students should not be allowed to live off-campus, except in very special cases. All students living off-campus should be required to take a pledge to participate in all extra-curricular activities (singing, picnics, lectures, etc.).

Spanish-speaking students. Every summer the number of Spanish-speaking students in our School is larger. In general, as they are very fluent in Spanish and are good students, they represent an important contribution to our School in extra-curricular activities - dining room, theater, conversation, etc. Most of them are Puerto Ricans, Cubans and Spaniards, but we also have some from Argentina, Bolivia and Colombia as well as some born in the United States of

Spanish-speaking parents. These students, who are already very fluent in the language, should not be allowed to take conversation courses.

The Allen House. The Allen House, with several rooms assigned to students of the Spanish School, was a valuable addition to our accommodation facilities. But some of those facilities, principally the living room, have not been used to full advantage, the difficulty lying in the fact that the students of the different Schools have to share the living room. I think a method such as the one in operation in the sharing of the swimming pool should be devised in this case.

The Acting Dean. The acting Dean, Miss Lauri Perry, has done a very fine job. She was always efficient in her administration, helpful to me, and cooperative with both professors and students.

The Session: Literature Courses. The larger enrollment in the School had differing impacts on the language courses on the one hand and on the literature and civilization courses on the other. In the language courses, all of them with several sections (5 each for Phonetics, Composition and Grammar and 6 for Conversation), it is possible to have an equable distribution of the students registered in them. This summer the number of students in those courses ranged from 16 to 24. But the great impact of the new flow of students was felt in the literature courses and even more in the Spanish civilization course which in our School is not compulsory. The average enrollment in the literature courses was a little over 40, while in the Spanish civilization course, it was almost 100. Most of the students who plan to attend our School in Madrid in the winter register voluntarily for this course. Perhaps the civilization course should be made compulsory for those students. To cope with this high number of students registered in the literature and civilization courses, the School should offer more courses in its program.

Our literature courses were fairly distributed between Spanish and Latin American literature and the different literary epochs and genres. Our visiting professors were carefully selected, taking into consideration the different fields in which they are authorities. Our visiting professor from Spain, Dr. Alonso Zamora Vicente, a distinguished linguist and literary critic, covered both fields giving one course on the history of the Spanish language and another on the prose of the Spanish writers of the Twentieth Century. This second course was intended, in part, as a seminar to acquaint our present and future doctoral candidates with the methods and techniques of literary criticism and research. Also given in the nature of a seminar was the course offered by Dr. Concha Meléndez, visiting professor from Latin America, on the prose and poetry of the distinguished Mexican writer and scholar Alfonso Reyes.

Literature courses were well balanced in periods: Professor Barceló gave one on the Middle Ages, Professor Emilio González one on the Golden Age and Professor Barceló another one on Romanticism and the literature of the Nineteenth century. Major attention was given to contemporary literature. We offered two courses on the poetry of the twentieth century: that on Spanish poetry was taught by Professor Jiménez and that on Latin American poetry by Professor Florit. Professor Manuel Alvarez Morales offered a course on the Latin American novel of this period. Registration was heaviest in all the courses in contemporary literature and in that on the Golden Age.

Language Courses: The different fields in the language division, with their several sections, were directed by competent teachers with long experience in their respective fields, with the exception of Phonetics: grammar courses were directed by Professor Ruiz, composition courses by Professor Florit and the conversation courses by Professor Alvarez Morales. In Phonetics the director was Professor Monroe, a young man who though highly qualified in his field has had less experience as a teacher than the other directors. But in Phonetics we were very fortunate in this session to have had with us Dr. María Canellada, the wife of our visiting professor from Spain who accompanied him to Middlebury. She is one of the most competent and expert teachers in this field.

Bookstore: The great success and the high academic standard of our School this session was shown in the amount of sales in our Bookstore which was more than double than that of last year. Sales totaled more than 4,000 with an important profit for the college.

Extracurricular activities: singing and theater. Group singing on Tuesdays and Thursdays following dinner has always been popular and an important part of our social life. Professor Roberto Ruiz is a very able and dynamic director of the group singing which always attracts a large attendance.

This summer our dramatic director was Roberto Rodríguez who had been with us once previously. He directed with great competence two plays: La zapatera prodigiosa by García Laca with an all-student cast and Maribel o la extraña familia by the contemporary Spanish dramatist Miguel Mihura with an all-faculty cast. At the beginning of the session we held a dramatic reading of the Romantic play Don Juan Tenorio. One of the most important events in theater in our School is the Varieties presented by the students. The enthusiastic participation of the students may be judged by the fact that in this session a group of singing nuns took part.

September 2, 1964

Emilio González López